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**News for
South Carolina Libraries**
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News

For South
Carolina Libraries

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South Carolina State Library Receives Grant from Gates Foundation

The South Carolina State Library has been awarded a \$217,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of its Staying Connected grant program. The Staying Connected grants are provided to state library agencies for the purposes of providing technology training and support, as well as hardware and software upgrades, to local public libraries. South Carolina is one of 18 states receiving Staying Connected grants in 2004, including Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

The Staying Connected grants are challenge grants, meaning that the foundation matched funds raised by the state at a two-to-one ratio. The State Library was able to use the \$1.5 million dollars in lottery funds already earmarked for technology and provided to public libraries in the state as it's match. Jim Johnson, director of the State Library, commented that the South Carolina State Library would not have been able to apply for the grant and the public libraries would not benefit from these additional funds had the General Assembly not included public libraries in the Education Lottery.

Since 1998, the Gates Foundation has committed \$250 million through its US Library Program to install more than 47,000 computers in almost 11,000 libraries in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Over \$2.1 million dollars and more than 1,000 PC's went to South Carolina's public libraries between 1998 and 2002 as part of this program. Since then, the South Carolina State Library provided technology training to more than 1400 public library employees in South Carolina under an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Training Grant program.

Research conducted by the University of Washington's Public Access Computing Project shows that people with lower income and education levels are more likely to rely on the library for their only access to computers and the Internet. While computer and Internet use has grown among all populations in recent years, income and socioeconomic status remain key indicators of access to these technologies.

(cont'd on page 2)

FROM THE DIRECTOR.....

James B. Johnson, Jr.



There is a whirlwind of activity at the State House that involves libraries.

Governor Mark Sanford submitted to the General Assembly his FY05 Executive Budget. He proposes that the State Library become part of a new organization called the Department of Literary and Cultural Resources. His budget reduces State Library funding for administration (\$67,191), travel, meals, registration, and phone expenses (\$7,373), and transfers the continuing education coordinator from state to federal funds (\$65,846). State Aid remains at \$1.00 per capita with the minimum grant of \$40,000 per county.

On the Senate side, members are considering a major governmental restructuring bill that would place the State Library and four other agencies (ETV, Arts Commission, State Museum, and Archives and History) in the Budget and Control Board. This plan has the support of the State Library.

The House Ways and Means Committee has begun its work on the FY05 budget. Speculations are that discussions may focus on as much as a 10% budget reduction. The State Library made its presentation before the Ways and Means Subcommittee, which is responsible for its budget. General Appropriations Bill and Education Lottery funding needs of public libraries were presented. Todd Stephens, President of the Association of Public Library Administrators, made an excellent case for increasing lottery funds. The APLA has mounted a campaign to increase lottery funds allocated to public libraries from \$1.5 million to \$3 million.

Your support on these and other related issues will be appreciated. APLA will inform the public library community when it is appropriate to write or call legislators. With the state facing a \$350 million shortfall, this promises to be a very tight legislative year. We all must do everything in our power to ensure that we can at least maintain current service levels.



SCSL Receives Grant...(cont'd from page 1)

"Public libraries play a vital role in bridging the digital divide for those who do not have access to computers and the Internet. Today, because of the hard work of librarians across the country, if you can get to the library, you can get to the Internet," said Melinda Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "The challenge now is to help public libraries 'stay connected.' Sustaining public access computing will require continued support from local communities."

"South Carolina's public libraries have benefited tremendously from Gates Foundation grants. This current grant will allow libraries to replace aging equipment, obtain needed training, and technical support. What Andrew Carnegie was to libraries at the beginning of the 20th Century, Bill and Melinda Gates are to today's public libraries," said Johnson.

For more information on the Staying Connected Grant, please contact Felicia Vereen, Automation Consultant, at 803-734-8645 or email at feliciav@leo.scsli.state.sc.us.



Improving SC Libraries Through Targeted Federal Funding

The South Carolina State Library received \$2,178,176 in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) FY02 allotment funds to support public libraries and statewide library initiatives for the period October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2003.

Only projects that fulfilled the purpose of LSTA and those that addressed an objective in the South Carolina Five-Year State Plan were considered for funding. The purpose of LSTA is to:

- *To stimulate excellence and promote access to learning and information resources in all types of libraries for individuals of all ages;*
- *To promote library services that provide all users access to information through State, regional, national and international electronic networks;*
- *To provide linkages among and between libraries; and*
- *To promote targeted library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to people with limited functional literacy or information skills.*

FY 02 allotment funds supplemented state and local funding to make many improvements possible for the delivery of library and information services to South Carolinians of all ages and backgrounds.

44 public libraries and 4 special libraries received LSTA funding totaling \$684,864 for 48 individual library projects. Combined with LSTA funding of 17 State Library statewide initiatives, the total FY02 LSTA allotment supplemented 65 library development projects.

ABBE Regional Library System: Bienvenidos a al Libreria	\$20,700
Anderson County Library: Developing a Mobile Library	\$32,000
Laurens County Library: Expanding Services through the "Born to Read" Program	\$11,500
Richland County Public Library: Investigating Thin-Client Technology	\$19,631
Humanities Council, SC: SC Literary Arts Partnership	\$35,512

To see a summary report of South Carolina's LSTA projects, with a listing of all the FY02 sub-grants, please visit the South Carolina State Library publications page at <http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/pubs/index.html>.

To read about successful LSTA programs from South Carolina and other states, visit the LSTA Success Stories web site, sponsored by the American Library Association Washington Office and the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, at <http://cs.ala.org/lsta/>.



DISCUS Adds Databases, Enhances K-12 Web Site

DISCUS – South Carolina's Virtual Library continues to expand its resources and improve its services. Two new databases have been added for 2004, bringing the total to 20, and significant enhancements have been made to the Web site DISCUS hosts for K-12 user access.

DISCUS has added The State, NewsBank's searchable archive of the Columbia, SC, newspaper. Newspaper content also grew in the Custom Newspapers database from Gale, which now covers over 100 domestic and foreign newspapers. Also new for 2004 is Scribner Writers Series, Gale's reference database on over 1600 important authors from around the world. These additions address areas of need identified through user survey.

January marked the launch of a redesigned and enhanced Web site for school users. While colleges and public libraries create and maintain Web page links to connect their users to DISCUS databases, all school users access the databases through links on a K-12 page on the DISCUS Web site: www.scdiscus.org/school.html.

The redesigned K-12 page features a tabbed navigation bar to facilitate easy movement between multiple access pages for DISCUS databases. Users are guided to databases alphabetically, by subject and by grade level. A graphical *DISCUS Kids!* page links only to the databases targeted to elementary through middle grades.

A *Search Tips* page on the revamped site guides users to special database features, such as maps, pictures, lesson plans and teacher resources, timelines, and other often overlooked content. This page and the site's database descriptions, help information, and training resources are of interest and support to all types of DISCUS libraries.



Web Braille: What It Is and What It Can Do For Library Users

Braille readers know that Braille books can be bulky and difficult to transport. Often readers must wait longer than they'd like to receive a Braille book on loan. The National Library Service (NLS) provides a solution to these obstacles. Web-Braille, a free service from NLS, provides instant access, over the Internet, to more than 6300 Braille books to eligible individuals and institutions.

Web-Braille contains the full text of thousands of NLS-produced Braille books, hundreds of items from the NLS Music Section, and every Braille magazine currently produced by NLS. Users range from veteran Braille readers who want to keep up with best sellers to students and schools needing the Braille version of *Hamlet* to prepare for a class. Available titles can be searched via the NLS online catalog [<http://www.loc.gov/nls/catalog/index.html>] or *Braille Book Review*, a bi-monthly catalog that is sent to all registered Talking Book Services Braille readers.

To access the service, users need an Internet connection and a Braille-output device such as a Braille note-taker or embosser. Readers also have the

option of purchasing WB-View, a software package that maximizes the digital possibilities of Web-Braille books. With WB-View, users can set multiple bookmarks and move to specific bookmarks within the text, find and find again, go to last visited position when reopened, and more. For additional information about this software, visit Computers & Assistive Technologies, Inc. [<http://www.computerassistivetech.com/wbview.htm>]

The South Carolina State Library, Talking Book Services, provides a Web-Braille user name and password for eligible South Carolina readers. For more information, visit the Talking Book Services web site [<http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/bph/>] or call 1-800-922-7818. Librarians statewide should share this information with local area school districts offering educational programs for students, of all ages, with blindness. It is a tremendous resource for those needing ready access to Braille books.

Kecia Greer, Reader Services Librarian, Talking Book Services, South Carolina State Library, Email: kecia@leo.scsli.state.sc.us, Phone: 803-734-4625.

South Carolina State Library Announces New Web Site Address

The South Carolina State Library has a new user-friendly web address. Pointing one's browser to www.statelibrary.sc.gov opens up a world of information through a Web site that is a tremendous resource for South Carolina's library professionals and that offers a vast array of information for South Carolinians of all ages.

"For citizens, the State Library's Web site offers links to DISCUS- South Carolina's Virtual Library, to the South Carolina Reference Room where we have compiled a broad range of information about South Carolina, links to public library web sites in all 46 counties, and to many other useful resources. For State Government employees there is a link to an electronic resources page that gives access to magazines and journals, reference resources, government information gateways, and newspaper and media databases," says South Carolina State Library Director, Jim Johnson, "We hope our new user friendly web address will make it easier and more appealing for all information seekers to access State Library resources."

For more information contact, Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Library Services, 803-734-8928 or email: curtis@leo.scsli.state.sc.us





Children and Youth Services.....

York County Library Reaches Out to Hispanic Community

by Dina Grant, Children's Outreach Librarian, York County Library

In July 2003, York County Library received a Viburnum Family Literacy Project Grant. Our goal was to initiate library services for Hispanic families in York County to meet the needs of this rapidly growing segment of York County's population. The Library and its partners, the International Center of



Hispanic dancers entertain the children at York County Library

York County and the Rock Hill Resource Center/ParentSmart, targeted Hispanic families with young children in York County because the Hispanic population in York County grew by over 338% between 1990 and 2000.

The project began with the purchase of bilingual and Spanish language children's books for the Main Library as well as one branch library. Spanish language books are packaged with the same title in English, and all titles are labeled and shelved together. As part of the project, York County Library and its partners planned and held a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on September 6, 2003. The celebration included a play, *Juan Bobo*, by Rags to Riches Theatre, Hispanic arts and crafts presented by local agencies, refreshments from a Mexican bakery and a performance by authentic Mexican dancers. Other programs such as a *Fandango!* Celebration and Storytime Ole' were held during the month at all library locations.

In 2003, The Library of Congress Center for the Book received a \$409,000 donation from the Viburnum

Foundation to do a one time project titled "Reading Powers the Mind." One library in each of twelve states was selected to receive a grant to begin or enhance a family literacy program in collaboration with at least two partners. York County Library was awarded this grant in December 2003. Building on the project that was originally funded by the Viburnum Family Literacy Grant, the library will purchase additional bilingual and Spanish language books for the Main Library in Rock Hill and one branch in York. These areas have the largest Hispanic population in the county. York County Library also plans to begin a Bilingual Family Story Time for families with children of all ages on the second Tuesday of each month beginning in May 2004. During the first story time, parents will be given information about library cards and the Vacation Reading Program as well as a tour of the library, focusing on the Children's Department and the Spanish Collection. In conjunction with the August story time, the library will also host a workshop for parents to help them understand the importance of reading. Partners will assist in translating publications, provide an interpreter for each monthly story time, and help publicize the programs.

The Library's goal with the programs is to promote literacy and to foster a love of reading among the children of York's Hispanic community and their families that will continue when they leave the Library.



Kids of all ages gather around to make crafts during Hispanic Heritage Month



NEWSWORTHY

The **Friends of the Georgetown County Library** has received a \$10,000 grant from the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation. Grant funds will be used for the purchase of books for a new branch library to be constructed in Carver's Bay.

The **Barnwell County Library**, part of the ABBE Regional Library System, has received a donation of \$135,000 from the Blackville Industrial Board for needed improvements to the Blackville Branch Library.

The **Friends of the Florence County Library** has received \$15,000 from the local Kiwanis Club for the purchase of books and learning materials for the children's room of the new headquarters library currently under construction.

Mystery author Margaret Maron will be visiting the **Greenwood County Library** on Thursday, April 22, 2004, at 7:30pm for a book signing and reception. For more information about this event, please contact the library at 864-941-4650.

The **Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL)** has inaugurated the first-ever virtual reference service cooperatively staffed by research libraries across a region. The service is available 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, and will be staffed by reference personnel at 10 ASERL member libraries, including College of William & Mary, VA; Florida State University; University of Alabama; University of Central Florida; University of Kentucky; University of Louisville, KY; University of Miami, FL; University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Virginia Commonwealth University; and Wake Forest University, NC. The service, called simply "Ask A Librarian," is available by linking through the website of any participating library. Visitors can also access the system via www.ask-a-librarian.org.

Dr. Allen Stokes, Jr. is the recipient of the 2004 **Lucy Hampton Bostick Award**, presented by the **Friends of the Richland County Public Library** at its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 11. This annual award honors those who have made significant contributions to libraries or literature in South Carolina. An avid library supporter, Dr. Stokes worked at the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina for more than 30 years, as a manuscripts librarian and, most recently as director. He retired in 2003.

Fairfield County Library's new bookmobile is now serving county residents. The bookmobile holds over 1500 items, including children's and adult books, magazines, and videos. Funding was provided by the Fairfield County Council and a federal LSTA grant administered by the South Carolina State Library.

For Your Calendar

National Diversity in Libraries Conference, Atlanta, GA

May 4-5, 2004

<http://www.librarydiversity.org/>

ALA Annual Conference, Orlando, FL

June 24-30

<http://www.ala.org/>

(Go to Events & Conferences)

Augusta Baker's Dozen- a Celebration of Stories

Richland County Public Library

April 23-24

Call 803-929-3474 for details

<http://www.richland.lib.sc.us>



The 2004 Trustee Institute is Great Success

150 public library trustees met for the 6th Annual S.C. Public Library Trustee Institute hosted by the South Carolina State Library at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Columbia, SC on February 24, 2004. The program titled "From Good to Great—Successful Boards in Times of Change," featured Pat Wagner, of Pattern Research, Denver, CO. Breakout sessions included presentations on building quality boards, fundraising, strategic planning, and library construction. During lunch, trustees heard from Ernie Passailaigue, Executive Director of the SC Lottery Commission, who provided an update on the status of the lottery in South Carolina. Mr. John Goodman was presented with the Margie E. Herron Trustee Award from the South Carolina Association of Public Library Administrators for his years of service on the Georgetown County Library Board.

Deborah Hotchkiss, Continuing Education Coordinator at the State Library and organizer of the 2004 Trustee Institute, describes the event as "great chance for trustees to update skills, network with colleagues, and discuss issues that are crucial to the success of public libraries in our state." Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive. One attendee indicated that there was "a lot of thinking outside the box," going on to say that "people who did not attend missed out on a great opportunity, a mind-expanding experience."



John Goodman receives the Margie E. Herron Trustee Award from Todd Stephens, president of APLA.



Richland County Public Library Trustee Noble Cooper spoke on growing quality boards.



Trustees from all over the state listen as Pat Wagner provides strategies for success in times of change.

South Carolina State Library

Administration: James B. Johnson, Jr., Director
Deputy Director: Guynell Williams, Director
Library Development Services: Curtis Rogers, Director
Information Services: Mary Morgan, Director
Collection Management Services: Felicia Yeh, Director
Talking Book Services: Guynell Williams, Director
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State Library: www.statelibrary.sc.gov

Talking Book Services: www.statelibrary.sc.gov/bph

DISCUS: www.scdiscus.org

Palmetto Book Alliance: www.scpalmettobookalliance.org

SC Reference Room: www.statelibrary.sc.gov/refdesk.html

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